

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5019

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0079

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PRC LEADERSHIP VIGNETTES: SOME TIES THAT BIND?

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: PEKING 71

1. FILM SCREENED REPEATEDLY ON PEKING TV JANUARY 9
SHOWS PRC LEADERS PAYING LAST RESPECTS AT THE PEKING HOSPITAL
TO CHOU EN-LAI'S BODY AND CONDOLING CHOU'S WIDOW. ONE OF THE
MORE INTERESTING FEATURES OF THE FILM IS THAT PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN
WANG HUNG-WEN, NOW NOMINALLY NO. 2 IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, AND
POLITBURO ALTERNATE MEMBER WU KUEI-HSIEN (F) ARE SHOWN, AND
NAMED, GOING THROUGH THE PROCEEDINGS TOGETHER. ANOTHER IS
SCENE IN WHICH POLITBURO MEMBER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO
SPONTANEOUSLY EMBRACES CHOU'S WIDOW THEN HOLDS HER HAND
FOR QUITE A LONG TIME--THE ONLY EMBRACE AND THE MOST
POIGNANT SUCH SCENE IN THE FILM.

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2. WE HAVE HEARD (AND PERHAPS FBIS MONITORING OF CANTON TELEVISION BROADCASTS WOULD CONFIRM) THAT WANG AND WU WERE PAIRED IN THIS MANNER ON OCCASION OF TUNG PI-WU'S DEATH LAST APRIL. AT ANY RATE TREATMENT IN THE ABOVE FILM, WITH WU FAR OUT OF HER PROTOCOL POSITION, RATHER STRONGLY SUGGESTS THE TWO ARE MARRIED OR HAVE SOME OTHER CLOSE FAMILY CONNECTION.

3. SCENE BETWEEN CHANG AND CHOU'S WIDOW PROMPTED ROMANIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO REMARK TO US THAT HE HAD SEEN CHOU AND CHANG TOGETHER QUITE A LOT DURING PRESIDENT CEAUȘESCU'S VISIT TO CHINA IN 1971, AND THE TWO HAD SEEMED TO HAVE AN ESPECIALLY WARM PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. ROMANIAN OFFICIAL FURTHER COMMENTED THAT OF ALL PRESENT PRC LEADERS, CHANG CAME CLOSEST TO HAVING THE ABILITIES AND STYLE ASSOCIATED WITH CHOU AND PREDICTED THAT CHANG WOULD INCREASINGLY FILL THE SAME KIND OF ROLE AS CHOU HAD IN THE PRC LEADERSHIP.

THAYER

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